

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST



PUBLISHED BY THE
MARYLAND SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 40 NO. 5

THE REMSEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The next meeting of the Maryland Section will be the occasion for the annual Remsen Lecture and Award, an event which has been the climax of our local meetings each year since 1946. The ninth Remsen lecturer will be Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry of the Cornell University Medical College, New York City. Dr. du Vigneaud is noted as a teacher, as an outstanding contributor to research in various biochemical fields, including hormones and intermediary metabolism, and as an unusually effective speaker. He will be introduced by another distinguished biochemist, Dr. Hubert B. Vickery, Biochemist-in-charge at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The meeting will be held on Friday, May 21 in Remsen Hall, on the Homewood Campus of the Johns Hopkins University.

The title of Dr. du Vigneaud's address is "The Hormones of the Posterior Pituitary Gland," which points to a field in which he has advanced knowledge considerably. An extended piece of research on the hormones oxytocin and vasopressin will be described. This will include the successful isolation, degradation, and synthesis of these hormones by re-combining the building blocks. Various elaborate fractionation techniques were required to isolate the hormones in a pure state, and the establishing of structures developed into a fascinating piece of detective work, since each hormone was capable of degradation into eight amino acids, plus ammonia. When the two hormones were eventually re-synthesized, they could not be distinguished from the natural products in any ascertainable chemical property or item of biological activity.

Biographical material on Dr. du Vigneaud and Dr. Vickery will be found elsewhere in this issue.

DINNER RESERVATIONS should be made by filling out the inclosed card and mailing so that it will be received not later than Monday, May 17 by Dr. Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 4. (Telephone Valley 5-3305). Formal dress is in general optional, but is requested of members of the Executive Committee.

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Section Officers

Chairman William H. Summerson, Chemical Corps, ARMY
Chemical Center, Maryland
Vice-Chairman Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 4
Secretary J. E. Ahlberg, 3709 Kimble Road, Baltimore 48
Treasurer E. A. Metcalf, 907 Litchfield Road, Baltimore 42

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST is published each month from September through May by the Maryland Section, American Chemical Society.

Editor Stephen S. Hubbard 4423 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 4

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Maryland Section met on April 8. Dr. Summerson was host, and twelve members were present. The minutes of the last meeting, on December 15, 1953, were approved as published in THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST in February.

Approval was given the selection of the Remsen Lecture Committee for the 1954 award--Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud. Dr. Corwin, the chairman of this committee, reported that it was already active in making necessary arrangements for the occasion, including the issuing of invitations to national officers to be present.

The Executive Committee approved the plan to hold the April, 1955 meeting at Morgan State College, in conjunction with the dedication of the new science buildings at the College, and in recognition of "the past contributions of and the future opportunities of the Negro scientist." The Secretary was instructed to accept in writing the invitation of Dr. Martin D. Jenkins to hold this meeting at Morgan on April 15, 1955.

Dr. Metcalf reported on the status of funds, pointing out that the income of the Section exceeds expenditures by about one hundred dollars a year. Dr. Forman suggested the formation of a sub-committee to determine whether it would be preferable to accumulate the surplus for future use, or to dispose them in the form of scholarships or library grants. The motion carried, and Dr. Summerson then appointed Dr. Otto (chairman), Dr. Forman, Dr. H. H. Lloyd, and Dr. Metcalf as the members of the sub-committee, with the instructions that they report their recommendations within three months, and that they evaluate the possibility of placing surplus funds in an investment pool to be operated by the national organization, which would have the advantage of diversification.

The activities of the Maryland Counsel-Guidance Committee of the Engineers Club of Baltimore were discussed. It was the consensus that the Section, through its representative should have the prerogative of tentatively approving or disapproving the activities of the above group. Further, financial support by the Section should be dependent upon approval and appropriation of a definite sum of money by our Executive Committee before expenditures are made by the Counsel-Guidance group, which represents the Affiliated Engineering Societies of Baltimore. Because of similar activities in the ACS, there is an overlap (to page 23

TECHNICAL MEETINGS FEATURED

THE GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCES--June 14 to September 3 at Colby Junior College, New London, New Hampshire; New Hampton School, New Hampton, N. H.; and Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N. H. Requests to attend, and for other information, should be addressed to Dr. W. George Parks, Director, Department of Chemistry, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island. These conferences, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, are unique in the degree to which they permit extended presentation of papers and discussion of them; moreover, since attendance is limited to 100 per conference (one week), a great deal of informal discussion and many fruitful contacts are promoted. Among new additions this year to the conference topics, one is aromatic chemicals. The complete program is given in Science, the issue of April 16.

NATIONAL CHEMICAL EXPOSITION--Chicago Coliseum, October 12 to 15. This is the eighth exposition to be sponsored by the Chicago Section. A number of symposia and lectures are scheduled, in addition to the exhibits. For complete information, write to the exposition headquarters at 86 East Randolph St., Chicago 4, Illinois.

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with the functions of the subject committee. Further consideration will be given a bill recently rendered to the Section by the Counsel-Guidance Committee.

Dr. Forman reported on a meeting which he attended, of the Baltimore Group of the National Citizens' Committee for Education by Television. The Executive Committee approved the contribution by the Section of twenty-five dollars to a fund for financing a campaign to obtain enough to initiate and sustain educational television activities of a non-commercial station, project for construction to serve the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Dr. Summerson reminded the group that nominations for the national awards of the ACS, submitted by any member, are in order. He stated that he will solicit nominations by writing letters to Section members who are specialists in the various fields of chemistry.

Dr. Cooke questioned whether the by-laws of the Section should be interpreted as authorizing other scientific groups to indicate affiliation with the national ACS organization, in cases, where the Maryland Section merely helps to support (financially and otherwise) the activities of these groups. Dr. Cooke was requested by the Chairman to make a study of this question, and to report his findings at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Elston Ahlberg, Secretary
Maryland Section

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE MARYLAND SECTION

III. The Period 1945-1946

Chemical Abstracts, which we now take very much as a routine part of our professional facilities, was a comparatively young publication during the early years of the Maryland Section. It is interesting that late in 1945 the national secretary was setting forth need of the first decennial index, and asking for subscribers to it. The proposed index was strongly indorsed at the November, 1945 meeting of the Section, and 15 of the 40 in attendance stated that they would subscribe.

The ninth meeting of the Section was held in December, 1945. One of the papers presented was "Partition, or Mutual Solubility," by Dr. E. Emmet Reid. The next meeting, in January, 1946, was held jointly with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, who were having their eighth annual session. Our Section was host, and the meeting place was Hopkins Hall. Two papers were presented.

The next few meetings were of the regular type. The question whether to elect or to appoint councillors (see Part II in this series) had evidently been settled in favor of election, since the records refer to the election of Mr. Sheppard Powell, his subsequent resignation, and the election of Mr. F. M. Boyles to fill the vacancy. At the May meeting, five papers were presented, one on osmotic pressure measurements and four on organic syntheses. Plans were discussed for a plant trip to be held in June, as an extra meeting, concluding with a dinner to be held after the tour.

The 1946 elections were held at the October meeting. The new officers were E. E. Reid, Chairman; Charles Glaser, Vice-Chairman; S. T. Powell, Secretary-Treasurer; W. W. Randall and H. R. Gundlach, Members-at-large of the Executive Committee. Mr. Boyles was asked to form a committee to solicit funds from local manufacturers to make up the deficit which would be incurred to publishing the first decennial index to Chemical Abstracts; this action was probably part of a nationally organized venture.

At the November meeting there was a discussion of the possible affiliation of the Section with the Baltimore Technical Organization (evidently the original form of the Affiliated Engineering Societies). The matter was referred to the officers for a decision, and an affirmative action was reported at the December meeting. The officers were then empowered to proceed with the necessary negotiations.

The papers presented at the last two meetings in 1946 show that the Section was aware of the natural interest in local manufacturing and marketing operations. One of these was given by a member of the H. K. Mulford Drug Company staff, on vaccines, serums, and other biological products; the other paper dealt with the manufacture of electrolytic zinc, and was given by two members of the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Highlandtown.

(These historical notes will be continued in an early issue).

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Colleges, and the Lasker Award from the American Public Health Association. The Osborne and Mendel Award was conferred in 1953. In 1944, he was elected to membership in both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. The Royal Society of Sciences of Upsala elected him a member in 1950, and the next year he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is a Past-President of the American Association of Biological Chemists. He is a member of the Research Council, Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York; of the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; and of the Advisory Council of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation of Cincinnati.

Dr. du Vigneaud's research includes studies on insulin, the posterior pituitary hormones, intermediary metabolism, amino acids and peptides, transmethylation, metabolism of one-carbon compounds, transsulfuration, biotin, and penicillin.

DR. HUBERT B. VICKERY

As another distinguished biochemist, Dr. Vickery is a fitting choice to introduce Dr. du Vigneaud on an important occasion. Dr. Vickery's researches to some extent complement those of the speaker; he is an authority on proteins, and has particularly studied amino acids, proteins themselves; organic acids in plant tissues, and plant metabolism. Dr. Vickery is also a Past-President of the American Association of Biological Chemists.

Dr. Vickery has been Biochemist-in-Charge at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station since 1928, and a lecturer at Yale University since 1924. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, has served in the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and has been on the editorial boards of both the Journal of Biological Chemistry and the American Chemical Society.

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ATTENTION is called to a cogent editorial in C & E News, the issue of April 5, 1954, page 1380. Mr. Emery quotes and comments on an item in "Isotopics," one of the regional publications. The author has taken up the question "what's wrong with your Society," and has arrived at the answer that if anything is wrong, it is you. He gives an excellent summary of services, publications, and opportunities afforded by the ACS, emphasizing the almost endless possibilities for personal and professional contacts, and the highly democratic scheme for establishing rules and policies, and for deciding issues. All these are available to make membership in the Society a rich experience, if you are an active member in the true sense of the term. All ACS members, and all local sections, including the Maryland Section, would benefit greatly if the membership would read this editorial and act accordingly. In our case, we should like to see an attendance at meetings closer to 50 than to 45 per cent of the membership, and a more widespread participation in carrying out the business of the Section, as two goals for the near future.

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THE REMSEN MEMORIAL LECTURE AND AWARD

DATE Friday, May 21
TIME 8:30 P. M.

PLACE Remsen Hall, Room 4
Johns Hopkins University
Charles & 34th Streets

Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud
"The Hormones of the Posterior Pituitary Gland"

RECEPTION Lounge, East Wing DINNER Dining Room, East Wing
6:30, The Johns Hopkins Club, Charles & 34th Streets

RESERVATIONS

See page 21, this issue

DR. VINCENT du VIGNEAUD



Dr. du Vigneaud, a native of Chicago, received his B. S. degree in 1923, and his M. S. degree in 1924 from the University of Illinois. In 1924-25 he was Assistant Biochemist at the Philadelphia General Hospital, and was also on the staff of the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. The University of Rochester School of Medicine conferred the Ph.D. degree on him in 1927. Later, as a National Research Council Fellow, Dr. du Vigneaud worked at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine with Professor John J. Abel, with Professor Max Bergman at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, and with Professor George Barger at the University of Edinburgh Medical School. After Dr. du Vigneaud returned to the United States, he joined the staff of physiological chemistry at the University of Illinois, which he left in 1932 to become Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry of the George Washington University School of Medicine. In 1938 he accepted his present post at the Cornell University Medical College.

Dr. du Vigneaud was the Foster Lecturer at the University of Buffalo in 1939, and Hitchcock Professor at the University of California in 1944. During the summer of 1947 he was Visiting Lecturer in Switzerland on the American-Swiss Foundation for Scientific Exchange; in the spring of the next year he was the Stieglitz Memorial Lecturer. During part of 1949 he was Eastman Lecturer at the University of Rochester Medical School. In the fall of 1949 he was Special Lecturer at the University of London, and Liversidge Lecturer at the University of Cambridge. He delivered the Messenger lectures at Cornell University (Ithaca campus) in 1950. At New York University he was the Herter Lecturer in 1952 and the Goldfarb Lecturer in 1953.

Dr. du Vigneaud's awards began with the Hillebrand Award in 1936 from the Washington Section of the ACS; this was followed in 1942 by the Mead Johnson Vitamin B Complex Award of the American Institute of Nutrition, and in 1945 by the Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the ACS. He received the Borden Award in 1947 from the Association of American Medical (to page 25

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